

Carlton & Schultz 1955-66

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PROJECT No. **1696**
REPORTED BY **A. B. Carlton**
Davis, Seale and P. H.
Campus and Division or Department
DATE **January 14, 1957**

Annual Summary Statement of Progress for year ending Dec. 31, **1956**.
This Summary is in addition to, not in place of, more complete reports of progress prepared periodically and at least once a year with a deadline of Feb. 1.

Title: **Peat Land Conservation and Peat Dust Abatement**

Personnel: **Alan B. Carlton and cooperating research and extension staff**

Principal results of year: Data from two years indicate that a majority of dust storms hitting Stockton and/or Lodi occurred in the six-week period from May 15 to June 30. Furthermore, in 1955 and 1956, 87% of the severe storms occurred in this period. There were more mild storms than moderate and severe storms combined.

Inter-row planting was accomplished by eight cooperators on a total of 1,179 acres of asparagus. While most of the cooperators were unable, because of the cool wet spring, to interplant early enough to get much benefit, two cooperators had extensive acreages of highly successful inter-row planting. Wind erosion and consequent dust was cut down greatly. On one test, only 16% as much dust came off an interplanted field as came off an adjacent non-interplanted one. This was with wind parallel to the rows.

Snow fencing, tried in ridged white asparagus to test its effectiveness in dust control proved to be relatively ineffective. The material and labor costs would probably have been too high even if it had been highly effective.

Cattle on irrigated pasture made gains of over 1,000 lbs. of beef per acre per year. The contribution to this gain by some supplemental feeding has not yet been determined. The pastures grew well and stood up during the winter of 1955-1956 with the cattle on them.

Blackberries were planted in three locations on peat soils. The varieties that survived grew well and appeared well adapted to Delta conditions.

The Christmas trees put on a large growth and at least one variety showed a growth rate 2 to 3 times that normally experienced in Christmas tree plantations in Santa Cruz county. The trees have thick foliage and good confirmation.

Publications: **Inter-row Planting by Carlton, Alan B. and Underhill, John P., a multilithed booklet.**

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